

# The Wire

**'Part of history':  
NEGB sets sail**

**GTMO  
honors  
black  
history**



***Trooper Focus: Army Sgt. James Blake***



SGT. MAJ. SCOTT SMITH  
SERGEANT MAJOR, JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

For all of the various reasons why you joined the military, at some point you realized that you had made a promise to the American people that you would give your life in the defense of our nation. For an 18 or 19 year old, although not realized at the time, this is a serious undertaking. To be willing to give your life so that others may live and enjoy all the freedoms that we share is a monumental feat.

Our nation must have individuals like you who are willing to step forward and protect our way of life even when some of those of whom you protect do not care or appreciate what you do. Nowhere in the two tenants of leadership (mission accomplishment and troop welfare) does it state that members of the U.S. military are required to be liked or appreciated. So, as I often do when I write the Command Corner, I take the opportunity to expound on my point by utilizing the writings of others, and this week provides me another chance to do so. The following is a great analogy of why we serve but more importantly the need for us to serve.

The following is an excerpt from On Sheep, Wolves and Sheepdogs by retired Army Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.

One Vietnam veteran, an old retired colonel, once said this to me:

“Most of the people in our society are sheep. They are kind, gentle, productive creatures who can only hurt one another by accident.” This is true. Remember, the murder rate is six per 100,000 per year, and the aggravated assault rate is four per 1,000 per year. What this means is that the vast majority of Americans are not inclined to hurt one another. Some estimates say that two million Americans are victims of violent crimes every year, a tragic, staggering number, perhaps an all-time record rate of violent crime. But there are almost 300 million Americans,

which means that the odds of being a victim of violent crime is considerably less than one in a hundred on any given year. Furthermore, since many violent crimes are committed by repeat offenders, the actual number of violent citizens is considerably less than two million.

Thus there is a paradox, and we must grasp both ends of the situation: We may well be in the most violent times in history, but violence is still remarkably rare. This is because most citizens are kind, decent people who are not capable of hurting each other, except by accident or under extreme provocation. They are sheep.

I mean nothing negative by calling them sheep. To me, it is like the pretty, blue robin’s egg. Inside, it is soft and gooey, but someday it will grow into something wonderful. But the egg cannot survive without its hard blue shell. Police officers, Soldiers, and other warriors are like that shell, and someday the civilization they protect will grow into something wonderful. For now, though, they need warriors to protect them from the predators.

“Then there are the wolves,” the old war veteran said, “and the wolves feed on the sheep without mercy.” Do you believe there are wolves out there who will feed on the flock without mercy? You better believe it. There are evil men in this world and they are capable of evil deeds. The moment you forget that or pretend it is not so, you become a sheep. There is no safety in denial.

“Then there are sheepdogs,” he went on,

COMMAND on page 3



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## JOINT TASK FORCE GUANTANAMO

SAFE • HUMANE • LEGAL • TRANSPARENT

# NEWS FROM THE BAY

## Universal Orlando

GTMO’s Information, Tickets, and Travel office is offering Universal Orlando Military Salute tickets to GTMO Troopers and retirees. Military Salute tickets are three-day park to park tickets and are good until the end of June. If you want to pick up your free ticket, call the ITT office at 75351. You must pick up your ticket before March 31.

## New zip code

As of now, Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s new postal zip code is APO AE 09522-9998. However, the previous zip code, APO AE 09360, will remain valid until further notice and can still be used during the transition phase.

### COMMAND from page 3

“and I’m a sheepdog. I live to protect the flock and confront the wolf.”

If you have no capacity for violence, then you are a healthy, productive citizen, a sheep. If you have a capacity for violence and no empathy for your fellow citizens, then you have defined an aggressive sociopath, a wolf. But what if you have a capacity for violence and a deep love for your fellow citizens? What do you have then? A sheepdog, a warrior, someone who is walking the hero’s path. Someone who can walk into the heart of darkness, into the universal human phobia, and walk out unscathed.

Everyone has been given a gift in life. Some people have a gift for science, and some have a flair for art. And warriors have been given the gift of aggression. They would no more misuse this gift than a doctor would

## Water restrictions

Naval Station Guantanamo Bay is experiencing water production limitations. Residents should conserve water as much as possible. A few ways residents can conserve water are not watering the lawn, not washing your vehicle at your residence, not watering plants and not washing the sidewalks. Report leaks to the Public Works Department.

## Tax assistance center

It’s tax season again. Troopers and residents can get help from the legal office with filing their taxes. The legal office will provide IRS-trained volunteers to help people until April 15. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 4692.

misuse his healing arts, but they yearn for the opportunity to use their gift to help others. These people, the ones who have been blessed with the gift of aggression and a love for others, are our sheepdogs.

The sheep generally do not like the sheepdog. He looks a lot like the wolf. He has fangs and the capacity for violence. The difference, though, is that the sheepdog must not, cannot and will not ever harm the sheep. Any sheepdog who intentionally harms the lowliest little lamb will be punished and removed. The world cannot work any other way, at least not in a representative democracy or a republic such as ours.

So, sheepdogs, I ask that you remain committed to protecting the sheep from those wolves that exist in this world and in whatever mission that you are tasked. Lastly, continue to take care of each other and do the right thing, even when no one is looking.

## Outdoor recreation

Some of MWR’s outdoor recreation center hours have changed. The Ground Zero paintball course is now open Saturdays from 4:30 to 8 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. During the week, the paintball course (ext. 2381/2345) is available by appointment only. The Auto Skills Center (ext. 7791) is closed Sundays and Wednesdays. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the shop is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Thursdays it’s open from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Marina (ext. 2345) is closed on Wednesdays. On Saturdays and Sundays, the Marina is open from 6 a.m. to 8p.m. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8a.m. to 8p.m. The Lateral Hazard (ext. 77288) golf course is only closed on Tuesdays. During the rest of the week, the golf course is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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## ONLY AT GTMO by Spc. Brian Godette





# The Last Stand

Movie Review

R  
107 min.

By Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfletto

Is it possible for a movie to have you sitting on the edge of your seat with suspense and falling out of your seat with laughter, all at the same time, in the same scene?

I didn't think it was possible until now, and it didn't take MythBusters to figure this one out. Instead, it took a small-town sheriff and an FBI agent, as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Forest Whitaker team up in "The Last Stand," an action thriller that is surely going to become a classic.

I will tell you right now that I am giving this film five banana rats, but only because that's as high as I can go on our scale here at The Wire. This film deserves to be crawling with banana rats like Camp Bulkeley on a Saturday night – it's just that awesome of a movie.

Schwarzenegger, in his first starring role since "Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," plays Sheriff Ray Owens, the lead cop in the sleepy little town of Sommerton Junction, Ariz., where the biggest crime is the mayor parking his shiny, red Camaro in the fire lane. The sleepy little town is about to be woken up big time, as drug lord Gabriel Cortez (Eduardo Noriega, "Vantage Point") is on the run in a one-of-a-kind Corvette after escaping police custody while being brought to death row.

At the beginning of the movie, we see scenes involving Owens and lead FBI agent John Bannister (Whitaker, "The Last King of Scotland") running parallel to each other, but we see the lines beginning to intersect when Cortez flees and takes agent Ellen Richards (Genesis Rodriguez, "Identity Thief") hostage. They are racing toward the Mexican border at nearly 200 mph, and they may be heading for an almost unknown crossing that happens to be in the backyard of Sommerton's beloved farmer, Mr. Parsons (Harry Dean Stanton, "The Avengers").

Owens and his deputies, Sarah Torrance (Jaimie Alexander, "Thor"), Mike "Figgy" Figuerola (Luis Guzman, "Journey 2: The Mysterious Island") and Jerry Bailey (Zach Gilford, "In Our Nature"), are on Parsons' property investigating the farmer's mysterious murder when they happen upon a mobile assault bridge set up across the canyon that marks the border. They also happen upon henchman Thomas Burrell (Peter Stormare, "Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters") and his mercenaries, and Jerry is killed in the ensuing firefight. It's clear now that Cortez plans to cross the border at Sommerton, and it's also clear that Owens and his deputies may be the only ones who can stop him.

Through phone conversations between Bannister and Owens, it appears a SWAT team is either too far away to make it in time or not coming at all, so Owens and his deputies really are on their own. In need of some big-time help, Owens deputizes Sarah's ex-boyfriend and jail resident Frank Martinez (Rodrigo Santoro, "What to Expect When You're Expecting") after he asks to join the fight to avenge his friend's death with his military expertise.

After realizing they only have some pistols and shotguns among them, the team next tracks down Lewis Dinkum (Johnny Knoxville, "Jackass"), the operator of the town's gun museum and the owner of quite the stash of assault weapons, including an old machine gun he affectionately calls Vickie. After loading their armory in a fleet of vehicles that includes a truck named Henrietta and a school bus, which are part of two of the movie's comedic punch lines, the team is ready to set up a barricade in town, fight off Burrell and his mercenaries and stop Cortez from making his way into Mexico.

Will Owens and his ragtag team of deputies be able to hold back the mercenaries, who are determined to blast a path for Cortez through town no matter how many

deaths it takes, before the infamous drug lord shows up on the street? Will Cortez be able to outsmart and outgun the law enforcement agencies chasing him and make his way back across the border and back to a life as the most powerful and infamous drug lord? Will Harry and Sam be able to finish their omelets at Irv's Diner (yet another of the movie's jokes) in peace before the morning is over?

I could tell you, but that wouldn't be any fun. What would be fun is you taking yourself down to the Downtown or Camp Bulkeley lyceums to check out "The Last Stand" the next time it comes around. Get yourself some popcorn and a soda if you want, but be careful not to spill them as you fall out of your seat with laughter after sitting on the edge in suspense.

The critics seem to be deeming this film as just another action film – good but not great and pretty much the same as every other action, particularly Schwarzenegger, film that has come before it. With big guns and fast cars mixed in a typical good guys versus bad guys plot line, I would have to concede that the critics have it mostly right. The acting and the scenes aren't all that different from anything we've ever seen before, and even Schwarzenegger seems out of place with his Austrian accent in small-town Arizona.

But, there is just something about how it all comes together that makes it a great action film. And the addition of small yet hilarious bits among the intense, suspenseful action – such as a seemingly mild-mannered old lady disposing of a bad guy with a shotgun after he ignored her "No trespassing!" warning – makes the movie all the more memorable.

Then there's the mayor coming back to town and wondering what happened – "Told you not to park on the fire lane," the sheriff tells him. By now, you're wondering what happened too, so go see this movie already! I repeat, it gets a solid five out of five banana rats!

## JTF Chaplain's Office saves Troopers, sponsors financial classes



Story by Spc. Cody Campana,  
photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

The Joint Task Force Guantanamo Chaplain's Office, here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, is currently sponsoring a financial education course within the JTF called the Financial Peace University.

The 13-week course is run through the Dave Ramsey Institute and is strongly based on the original version of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. The purpose of the course is to help enlighten the 35 Troopers and Department of Defense employees participating on how to become more financially successful.

"The course itself is two hours once a week and there are 13 sessions. Each session is about an hour of video," said Army Master Sgt. Luis Cora, class facilitator and non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Joint Detention Group's S3. "Currently, we are running three full courses. We have a Monday class, a Tuesday class and an accelerated class that meets twice a week."

Students taking part in the course may find the training FPU contains to be very useful to them in particular. "It is actually the Financial Peace University's military edition, so it makes reference to the military community and makes reference to our regulations," Cora said. "It is geared

toward a military mindset."

The material is presented and structured in a way that will allow service members a more comfortable experience while helping them to reduce their financial stress.

"In the military, we are so used to learning by things being structured, and this course is structured on a step-by-step process," Cora said. "The course is designed to reduce stress. We know that a financial burden in a military career could be a real downfall, especially with your security clearance and the divorce rate being so high." Much like the original version of the course, the military edition is broken down into seven "baby steps," Cora explained.

"Step one is saving a one thousand dollar emergency fund, step two is 'the debt snowball,' how to pay off all your debt, three is build that emergency fund from three to six months of your income, step four is save 15 percent in investments for retirement, step five is start funding a college fund for your kids, step six is pay off your mortgage, and then step seven is build your wealth and give it away," Cora said. Though the seven steps of the course are its main structure, students may find each other most beneficial.

"The real learning for the military comes from the discussion at the

end of the video," Cora said. "We pose questions and discussions, and then people build off of each other's experiences."

Participants may also have the chance to examine their individual finances and learn to complete important paperwork during homework.

"There is quite a bit of homework. As a matter of fact, every night there is homework," Cora said. "There are certain forms that you fill out based on your financial status, your family status and your goals."

The importance of the class may not seem particular for military members, but finances can play a large role in a Trooper's career.

"If your financial arena is in good standing, you will probably be a more productive [Trooper]," Cora said. Many people may underestimate the time required to reach a monetary goal, get out of debt, or become wealthy like the Monopoly guy, but enrolling in a future FPU course can get you on your way.

"The course is designed to change your life, and if you're going to change your life, it's going to take some time," Cora said.

The class may be quite long and immersive, but participants can expect a quality block of instruction that may be a life changing experience.





Red Cross volunteer dog, Austin provides Troopers with the comfort of a pet's presence. Austin volunteers each week at Joint Task Force Guantanamo's JSMART.

Story and photos by Spc. Raechel Haynes

If you've ever seen a statue of Buddha, you know he wears the same serene, congenial smile all the time. He always looks calm and happy. Joint Task Force Guantanamo has its own Buddha-like being, a yellow Labrador Retriever named Austin.

Many Troopers, deployed or stationed here, can't bring their own pets with them. Most pet owners will say that there is a certain comfort that comes in the form of a dog. They are always happy to see their people and love unconditionally. Some are happy no matter who they are with.

On the right day of the week, a Trooper can walk into GTMO's Joint Stress Mitigation and Restoration Team, or JSMART, and expect the first person to greet them to be on four legs. JSMART offers a variety of methods for Troopers to deal with stress, and one of the methods available are Red Cross volunteer dogs.

Austin is one of those volunteers. Austin provides a comfort and service that no human can duplicate. He is there when Troopers need someone to listen, when they need comfort or when they just need some puppy love.

"He lets people speak freely to him," Austin's owner, Army Maj. Matthew Perry said. "He just sits down and listens, and you can pour out all your troubles to him. He is a great listener. He reminds people of their pets at home."

Austin provides a calm presence with whoever he shares his time with, content to just sit with a person until they feel like speaking or doing something.



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Jason Mcgee and Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Sean Dickinson try to convince Austin to do a trick.

"Since they are away from home, they miss the comfort their pets bring," said Petty Officer 1st class Arkeshia Deveaux, JSMART leading petty officer. "Most of the time,

# Dog days of GTMO: Therapy dog gives Troopers the comfort of a cold, wet nose

people don't come here to see us. They come to see Austin. Austin is their comfort. He helps them get over situations and ease their minds a little bit."

Austin was adopted by Perry, officer in charge of preventative medicine for the 525th Military Police Battalion, from a rescue in Austin, Texas, from which he takes his name. Even at a young age, Austin showed an aptitude for therapy work, with his calm demeanor and friendly, people-oriented personality.

"It is amazing because he is just so good at being a therapy dog," Perry said. "He doesn't really have any training. He is the same calm and happy dog he was when we first adopted him."

Austin is not the only canine "therapist" available to Troopers.

"Austin is great for some people because he is calm," Perry said. "But some people are looking for the jump-up-and-lick-you energetic dog, and that's what Trixie is good at. If you need to feel uplifted and excited, then Trixie is good for that because she is always excited. If you just need to sit and love on something and relax, then Austin is good at that."

For Troopers who can't always get over to JSMART, Austin makes the rounds with the JSMART team visiting Troopers where they work.

While Austin may not be the actual Buddha, he shares his friendly personality and inner calm with whoever needs it. Whether you just want to take him for a walk, throw a tennis ball or just sit quietly, he is there and just seems to know what you need.

Tel: 2010 • Email: Libertygtmo@yahoo.com

## MARCH 2013



The Liberty Program is open to unaccompanied active duty personnel only. **Pre-registration required for all Liberty events.** To sign up for events call 2010 or e-mail libertygtmo@yahoo.com

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Schedule subject to change.

Friday, Mar 1 ..... **NIGHT FISHING**  
MARINA • 1800

Saturday, Mar 2 ..... **BEACH BRIGADE**  
WINDMILL BEACH  
0900



Sunday, Mar 3 ..... **CERAMICS SUNDAY**  
CERAMICS SHOP • 1300

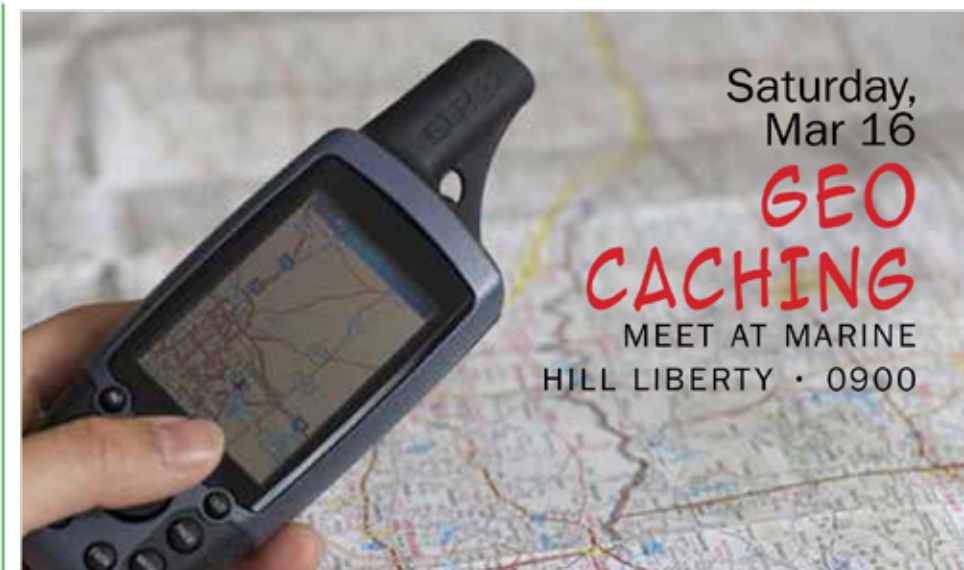


Monday, Mar 4  
*Got the day off?*  
**COME PLAY DISC GOLF!**  
DISC GOLF COURSE  
1000

Wednesday, Mar 6 ..... **BOWLING**  
FREE BOWLING AT  
MARBLE HEAD LANES  
1800-2100



Friday, Mar 8 ..... **POOL TOURNAMENT**  
CAMP A. LIBERTY • 1900



Saturday, Mar 16  
**GEO CACHING**  
MEET AT MARINE  
HILL LIBERTY • 0900



Saturday, Mar 9... **DAY FISHING**  
MARINA • 0630

Sunday, Mar 10 ..... **POOL TOURNAMENT**  
DEER POINT • 1400

Wednesday, Mar 13... **BOWLING**  
FREE BOWLING AT  
MARBLE HEAD LANES 1800-2100

Thursday, Mar 14 ... **PING PONG TOURNAMENT**  
CAMP A. LIBERTY  
1900



Tuesday, Mar 19 ..... *Got the day off?*  
**WAKEBOARD**  
MARINA • 1000

Wednesday, Mar 20 ..... **BOWLING**  
MARBLEHEAD LANES  
FREE • 1800-2100

Sunday, Mar 24..... **WOOD SHOP SUNDAY**  
WOOD SHOP • 1300

Tuesday, Mar 26..... **DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
DISC GOLF COURSE • 1900

Wednesday, Mar 27.... **BOWLING**  
MARBLEHEAD LANES  
FREE • 1800-2100

Thursday, Mar 29 ..... **9-BALL POOL TOURNAMENT**  
CAMP A LIBERTY • 1900



Wednesday, Mar 27..... **NIGHT FISHING**  
MARINA • 1800

Sunday, Mar 31..... **WOOD SHOP SUNDAY**  
WOOD SHOP • 1300





# NEGB disestablishes, hands Army mission



Story and photos by Army Sgt. Ferdinand Thomas

Almost a decade has passed since the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion was established to take responsibility of all detainees and camps at Joint Task Force Guantanamo. January 2004 brought what is now known as the NEGB, but all good things eventually must come to an end. The same holds true for the NEGB.

Rear Adm. Michael Tillotson, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command commander, visited GTMO and spoke at the NEGB Disestablishment Ceremony Feb. 21 at the naval station chapel. Some of his points were about the great job the Sailors have done during this mission and about the mission coming to a close.

"Outstanding leadership helped to guide and mentor quality Sailors, which resulted in excellent mission results. I'm proud of each and every one of you," Tillotson said. "You all are part of history. We're closing this chapter. However, never forget the role you played in it."

Throughout the past few years, the Navy has been gradually transferring authority of the detainee camps to the Army. There were once hundreds of Sailors guarding the camps throughout the Joint Task Force. Today less than 80 Sailors stand watch. It is now almost all Soldiers.

"We used to have an average of 600 Sailors guarding and helping maintain the standards of the camps," Chief Petty Officer

Jeremy McCall said. "Over time we brought that number down little by little to help the Army have a smooth transition into maintaining the majority of this mission."

The NEGB is entirely made up of individual augmentees from different parts of the nation. When they depart the island soon, they'll go back to their respective homes and integrate back into American society. Many of the Sailors will step back into law enforcement positions.

"Being [a guard battalion, a majority of the Sailors] are border patrol, state cops, county cops, detention center guards because they are master at arms," said Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Painter, NEGB leading petty officer. "So, their jobs on the outside consist to about the same thing."

That extensive amount of experience is part of the reason this mission has had great success and helped the NEGB push through the challenges. Time, logistics and communication from time to time were barriers.

NEGB Sailors guarded the camps 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That responsibility left each Sailor with 12-hour guard shifts. This shortage of time forced the NEGB to work together, communicate better and coordinate ways to accomplish all goals while saving as much time as possible.

"We are doing the guard duty every day, all day. Communication, from time to time, was a challenge," Painter said. "We had to

push through that to accomplish our goals and simultaneously keep up morale."

Another challenge for many of the Sailors was the 'splashes,' Painter added.

"I'm sure all of them will not mind not having to deal with that anymore. Splashing, I would imagine, made it hard for some of the guards to mentally cope with their work environment," he said.

Splashing is a form of malicious protest where a detainee will fill a cup with a combination of their bodily fluids and throw it on various guards. Reports average splashes happening at least once a week.

"All of our Sailors are professionals. We go through lots of training. We even sit down and discuss the things that are about to happen," McCall said. "Of course you're never really prepared until you experience it and then have to deal with it again. However, we've tried to prepare each Sailor to the best of our ability for this mission."

They prepared each Sailor for the mission well. Safety was top priority and it showed. There were zero incidents of guards being injured by detainees or each other, McCall added.

"You're standing here with these detainees, caring for them, making sure they aren't harmed by each other or by anyone on the outside. I let the Sailors know they're a part of history. I think they take a lot of pride in knowing they were a part of this," he said.



Sailors from the Navy Expeditionary Guard Battalion lower the NEGB flag for the last time and retire it.





Story by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

There are many reasons why people celebrate. Tasting freedom after being enslaved for nearly 300 years, obtaining civil rights from years of segregation, and achieving goals that were once not an option are more than enough reasons why African Americans celebrate. African American culture and accomplishments are celebrated nationwide throughout the month of February for Black History Month.

The Black Heritage Organization here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay held a Black & Gold Ball to remember and celebrate the achievements of African Americans at the Windjammer Ballroom Saturday.

"We honor those who faced and overcame the crossroads of our society," BHO President Darrell "Sarge" Laborn said as he gave his opening remarks.

Heritage is what guests saw when they gazed upon a decorated collage displaying African American culture right before entering the ballroom. BHO members and guests also showed an appreciation heritage as they arrived to the ball dressed in their best.

Models also dressed to impress as they made their way to the stage wearing African and Middle Eastern clothing.

"And the program will begin with the

# BHO GTMO celebrates Black History Month with Black & Gold Ball



Spc. Ardell Henderson plays and sings uplifting songs during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

beautiful Middle East and North Africa fashion show," Laborn said as he kicked off the event.

A feeling of African American culture spread throughout the ballroom as the models showed their outfits off and danced. The audience clapped and demonstrated their support while the models put on a cultural show.

The event shifted from dancing and modeling as the keynote speaker, Joint Task Force Guantanamo Commander Rear Adm. John W. Smith Jr., took the stage.

"This is such a great time to get together," Smith said.

Smith spoke about African American history from slavery to the present and even gave a personal encounter of his experiences as a 14 year old in South Carolina involving racism, but the majority of his speech focused on the Emancipation Proclamation, the March on Washington and the essence of moving forward.

"These events are based on the theme



Pauline Thompson performs a prayer dance during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.



Fashion show models and guests of the Black & Gold Ball dance down the 'Soul Train Line.' Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

today, and the theme really is at the crossroads of freedom and equality," said Smith, comparing the two events that changed the history for African Americans.

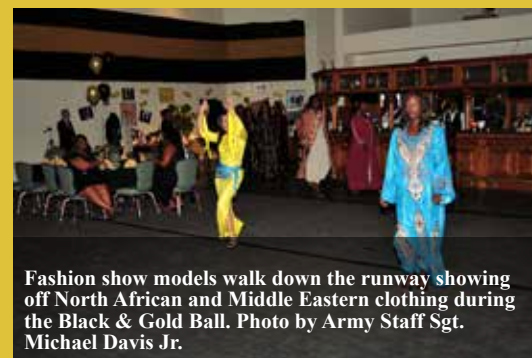
Smith said the acts of those events tie together even though they happened a century apart.

"The Emancipation Proclamation took place in 1863 and the March on Washington 100 years later 1963. The first about freedom, the second about equality, and they both are unparalleled. Freedom had to come first," Smith said.

Giving an explanation as to why he thought freedom had to come first, Smith said the very concept of owning another human being is at



A few Black Heritage Organization Guantanamo Bay members stand in the spotlight to be recognized for their work in organizing the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Spc. Brian Godette.



Fashion show models walk down the runway showing off North African and Middle Eastern clothing during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.



The Color Guard stands at the position of attention at start of the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

odds with the statement declaring that all men are created equal.

"Abraham Lincoln, the man who historians call the savior of the union, considered the Emancipation Proclamation the crowning achievement of his presidency. And Lincoln wrote, and I quote, 'I never in my life felt certain that I was doing right signing this piece of paper. If my name ever goes into the history books, it will be for this act. My whole soul is in,'" Smith said.

Smith then talked about how Lincoln did what he could when he could. Smith said Lincoln could have established the Emancipation Proclamation earlier than he did, but he didn't have the right resources to do so.

"As a military officer, I've learned long ago that you do what you can, when you can, with what



Spc. Tabitha James shows off her white outfit in a fashion show that was held during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

you have. And you know what, you don't let perfect be the enemy of good," Smith said.

Smith praised Lincoln for what he did, for the Union and for Africans Americans at that time but expressed how African Americans needed more than the Emancipation Proclamation to break the mental bondage they endured during slavery.

"Unfortunately, equality didn't come with that freedom. One hundred years later, Black Americans had come far from the days of slavery," Smith said. "Blacks served with distinction in World War II. Black inventors and scientists have made great contributions to the world, but even after slavery was abolished, many obstacles remained."

Blacks faced trouble in the streets, as well as in the court rooms of America. Smith explained how, with the help of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., President John F. Kennedy declared a second Emancipation Proclamation to outlaw segregation.

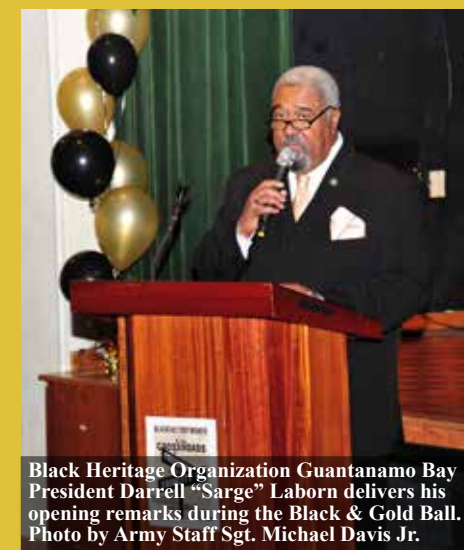
"By June of 1963, Kennedy was



Black Heritage Organization Guantanamo Bay Vice President Wanda Robinson reads notes pertaining to one of the fashion shows that took place during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.



A decorated collage honoring Black History Month is displayed in front of the Windjammer Ballroom during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.



Black Heritage Organization Guantanamo Bay President Darrell "Sarge" Laborn delivers his opening remarks during the Black & Gold Ball. Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Michael Davis Jr.

composing new civil rights legislations. And I quote, 'Next week, I shall ask the Congress of the United States to act, to make a commitment it has not fully made in this century to the proposition that race has no place in American life or law,'" Smith said.

Smith also said Kennedy's words were the legal version of King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

A vision of King's dream about equality and what he spoke into existence were seen manifested there at the ball. GTMO residents of different races and cultures all came together that night to celebrate Black History Month.

Laborn and his BHO team continued to entertain the guest with a praise dancer and another fashion show, and Spc. Ardell Henderson also blessed the audience with two uplifting songs. A raffle was also conducted and many of the guests won cool prizes.

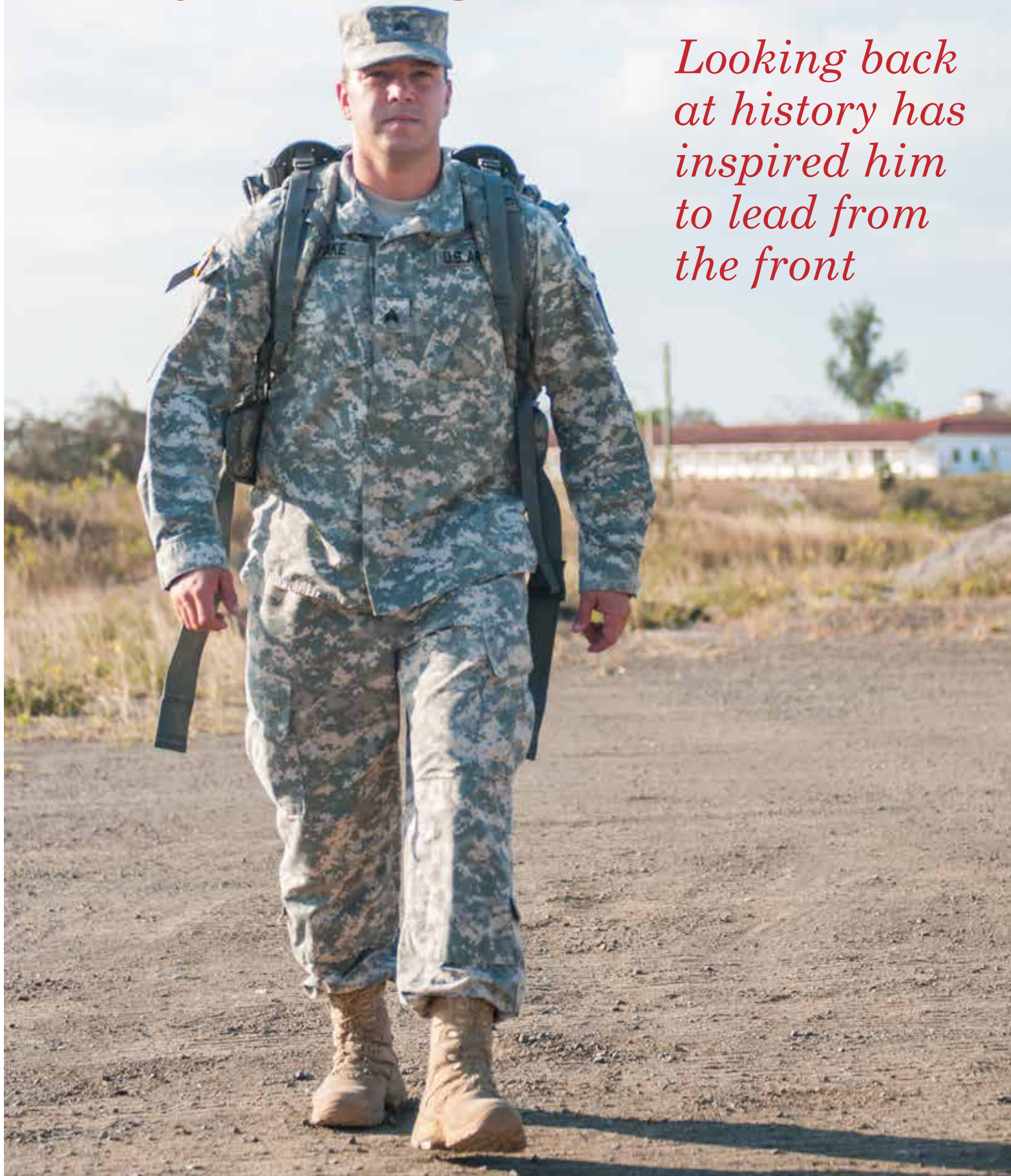
Everyone ate and danced the night away in unity.

"We learn from our past," Smith said. "Be inspired by it. Don't dwell on it. We are taught that history means understanding the present and a guide to security for a wholesome future. So, on this historic anniversary, it's right for us to pause at the crossroads of freedom and equality. It's about reflecting on how far we've come but not standing still so that we slide back."



# Army Staff Sgt. James Blake

*Looking back  
at history has  
inspired him  
to lead from  
the front*



# Trooper Focus



Story and photos by Army Pfc. Chalon Hutson

In the military, everyone has the opportunity to be a leader, whether they realize it or not.

During World War II, thousands of Americans were forced to march through the Philippine jungle after surrendering to the Japanese. Hundreds died because of the harsh conditions, and hundreds of people now complete the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico every year to honor their sacrifice.

That sacrifice demonstrated leadership, which helped inspire many people even today.

While here at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Army Sgt. James Blake, with the 428th Military Police Company, was interested in competing in the march. He saw that GTMO's Bataan Memorial Death March was the tryout for the nationwide competition.

As a motivated Soldier and team leader with the 428th MP Company, he realized it would demonstrate a great amount of leadership to complete the event.

"The march seemed like an event that was up my alley. I am really into physical fitness. I wanted to challenge myself and

try to see what it was like," he said. "It was pretty intense. After halfway, I had to push myself. It really comes down to how bad you want to finish."

Blake finished with the top Soldiers in the march, earning himself the opportunity to compete in the longer march in New Mexico. He, along with other Soldiers in the 428th MP Company and the 525th MP Battalion, will go to represent their companies, the battalion, and Joint Task Force Guantanamo.

"I think I finished around three hours and fifteen minutes," Blake said. "They took the top four male Soldiers and the top female Soldier, and we made a team to compete in the Co-ed Heavy event, which includes a 35-pound ruck. The one here was 15.6 miles, and the one there will be 26.2 miles. It will be a full marathon."

Blake was a team leader, in the 428th during the march and encouraged the Soldiers underneath him to compete in the march as well. Everyone within his team was able to complete the march.

Blake sees the future march as a challenge that will test him, but regardless of the results he will be better for the experience.

"At the end of the 15-miler, it was very tough to even walk, and now we are adding another 11 miles to it," Blake said. "I

am excited but a little nervous at the same time."

Blake was inspired by the memory of World War II service members who were forced to march 80 miles through the Philippine jungles.

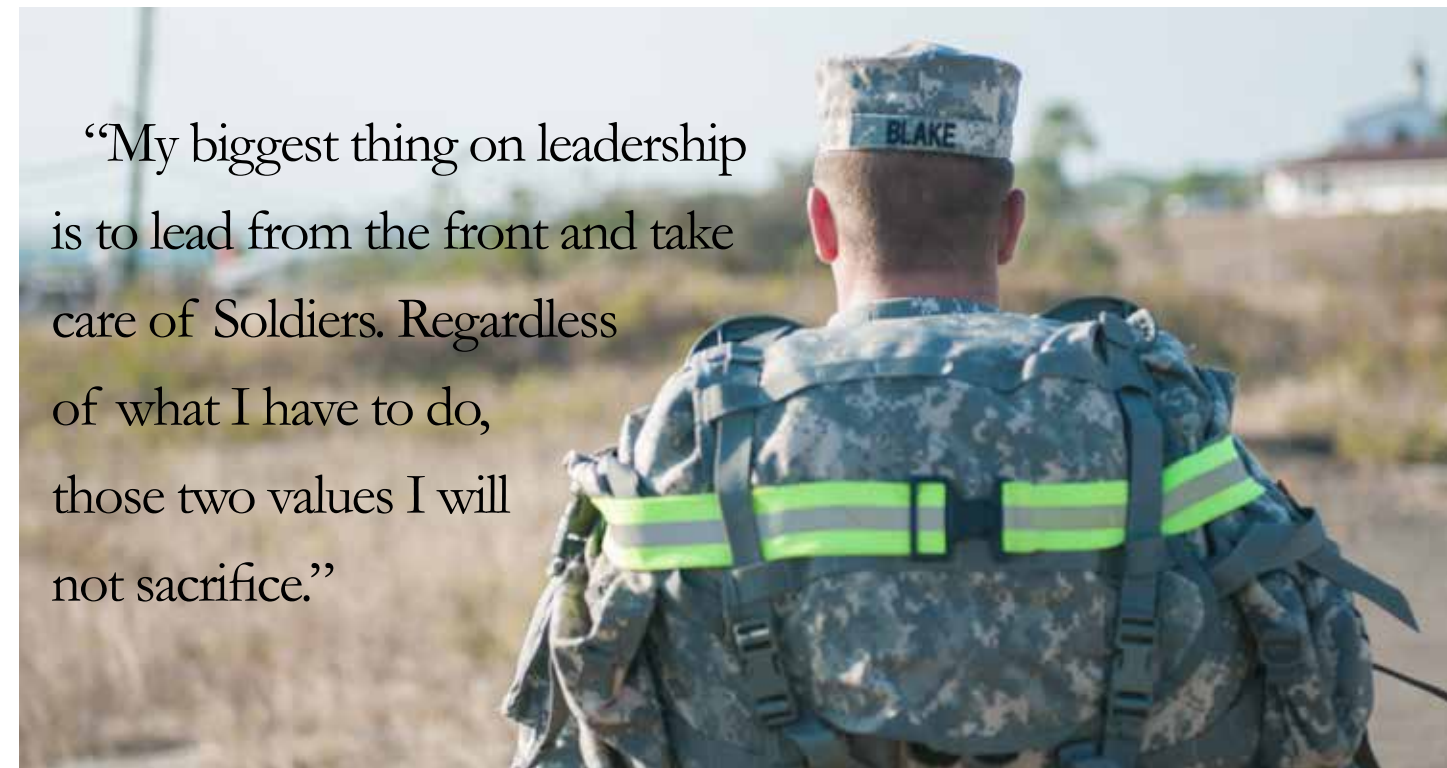
"Looking back to those during World War II who were actually forced to march, it's a testament to their strength and their courage to be able to push through all that," he said. "I want to do this for their memory and in part for my company. We might be reservists, but we are the strongest company out here. Now after looking into the event myself and what it represents, it meant a lot to try to go out there and make the team."

As team leader, within his company, he had the opportunity to lead by example.


"Now I know that when Soldiers are motivated, they are willing to push themselves harder," Blake said. "My biggest thing on leadership is to lead from the front and take care of Soldiers. Regardless of what I have to do, those two values I will not sacrifice."

Just as those who marched in the Philippines demonstrated leadership through example and sacrifice, Blake now has an opportunity, in his own way, to demonstrate his leadership with the Bataan Memorial Death March coming up.

"My biggest thing on leadership is to lead from the front and take care of Soldiers. Regardless of what I have to do, those two values I will not sacrifice."









# American Red Cross Lifeguard Classes

Get Certified Now In



American Red Cross Lifeguard/First Aid CPR/AED for Lifeguards

Sign up at Denich Gym!



## 4 Day Class Starts

### Thu. Mar. 14

(Register by Tue. Mar. 12)

## 0800-1400

### Swimming Eval & Payment due prior to start of class


Any patron hired as an MWR lifeguard will have an opportunity for class reimbursement

## Only \$80.00 (Civ)


## \$40.00 (Active Duty)

(Includes book & materials)

### Must be 15 Years Old



FMI, call 2205 or 84968





Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Michael Gavola crosses the finish line at the Sprint Triathlon on Saturday with a final time of 1:11:32, placing first in the individual race. The event consisted of a 500-yard swim, an 11-mile bike ride, and a 5K run. Photo by Army Pfc. Chalon Hutson

Story by Army Pfc. Chalon Hutson

Troopers and civilians throughout Naval Station Guantanamo Bay competed in a triathlon sponsored by GTMO's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation staff on Saturday.

The event included a 500-yard swim, followed by an 11-mile bike ride, finished with a 5k run. The competition did not have to be an individual one, as there was a separate bracket for teams of three to compete and share each leg of the event.

The winning team was made up of two Sailors and a Soldier with a winning time of 1 hour, 5 minutes, 13 seconds. Army 1st Lt. Haby Ramirez did the swimming portion, while Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Hasbun ran the final five kilometers and Navy Lt. Scott Thorpe completed the biking portion of the race.

"It was definitely a team effort. Our swimmer was kicked a couple times in the water, and he still beat probably 95 percent of the field," Thorpe said as his teammates celebrated after their win. "It was a great experience. The weather was great."

Shortly after the first teams came to the finish lane, Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Gavola came across the finish line, placing first in the individual triathlon, with a time of 1: 11:32.

"I have always been a good swimmer. I just had to work on the bike and the run," said Gavola, a California native who grew up around the ocean. "It feels good. I came out here to win."

Competing in the individual

# SWIM BIKE RUN

## MWR holds GTMO's own triathlon

competition meant that Gavola received no breaks in between each leg of the triathlon.

"This is definitely something I will look back on. I am looking forward to the other triathlons too," Gavola said. "I might not do the whole thing. I might do teams. It was pretty brutal."

This will not be the last opportunity for Troopers to compete in a contest such as this. MWR holds many competitions for athletes to compete in year-round.

"We try to mix events up and make it so there is something for everybody," said Dennis Anthony, the fitness director with MWR. "I often see a lot of the same people

coming out here, which means that no matter what you throw at them, they are willing to come out and take on the challenge."

Competing in an event like this requires constant physical fitness and training. The MWR gives notice so Troopers know which competition will be held next.

"We advertise it in advance, so some people train for this," Anthony said. "I know some people that train for every single event. They will sometimes ask me what the course will be ahead of time so they can run it five or six times before the competition."

Almost all of these events are open to all Troopers throughout GTMO who are up for the challenge, and there is never a shortage of those who are.

"We usually have very junior enlisted people come out here, and sometimes get the commander of the naval base as well," Anthony said.

Almost 100 people from GTMO, from all walks of life, came out to have a fun day of exercise and competition.



Almost 100 people from GTMO competed in the Sprint Triathlon on Saturday. The event consisted of a 500-yard swim in the ocean, followed by an 11-mile bike ride, and finished with a 5k run. There were teams of three people to split up each leg of the race, as well as individuals who completed the course. Photos by Spc. Cody Campana



Joint Personnel Center:  
The first face you see when you arrive...

...the last face you see when you leave

The Troopers of the Joint Personnel Center work at their office across from the 525th Military Police Battalion headquarters at Joint Task Force Guantanamo to help other Troopers handle their personnel matters, such as leave requests, visitations, pay benefits, meal cards, and other programs. The JPC also conducts inprocessing for incoming units and outprocessing for outgoing units at its office at the terminal on the Leeward side of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Jonathan Monfiletto

Their faces are the first faces you see when you first arrive at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, and their faces are the last faces you see when you leave GTMO after your tour at Joint Task Force Guantanamo is complete. They are the Troopers of the Joint Personnel Command.

From inprocessing to outprocessing and most everything in between during a Troopers' months-long tour at JTF GTMO, the JPC is the face behind the scenes of the JTF but is nevertheless an important face for Troopers whether they realize it or not.

When new Troopers arrive on the Leeward side of base, the JPC staffers are there to handle their inprocessing before they officially begin their mission on the Windward side. When Troopers leave the island for the final time, the JPC staff members are there yet again to take care of their outprocessing.

Besides conducting inprocessing and outprocessing when Troopers arrive at and depart from GTMO, Air Force 1st Lt. Jessica Tagatac, the officer in charge of the JPC, said the office also helps Troopers with leave requests, visitations, evaluations, accountability, and meal cards, as well as their imminent danger pay and hostile duty pay (IDP and HDP) benefits.

The JPC also handles releases from active duty (REFRADs), casualties, extensions, Red Cross messages and

accountability, among a few other items around JTF GTMO.

"Pretty much anything personnel that needs to be done, you can come to us and we'll help you guys out," Tagatac said. "The one stop – we hold true to our name."

The Troopers in the JPC work six days, and sometimes seven days, a week meeting the personnel needs of their fellow Troopers. Tagatac said each JPC worker handles one particular program that falls under the scope of the JPC, and some workers handle two, depending on how involved each program is.

"Each person has a program that they're responsible for," Tagatac said. "So, if someone comes in for visitation, we'll be like, 'Go to Specialist So-and-so.' If he's not here, then either myself, the NCOIC, or the superintendent can help them out."

Besides working out of the building across from the 525th Military Police Battalion's headquarters on the JTF side, the Troopers also spend every Saturday and every other Tuesday working out of their office at the terminal on the Leeward side.

As part of the JPC's leave program, the workers check Troopers in and out when they go on and come back from leave. They also take accountability of new units when they arrive and then take them to the upstairs of the terminal for inprocessing.

Tagatac said the inprocessing includes getting new Troopers' information, giving

them a safety brief, handing out meal cards, and explaining about life on the island.

"We're the first people they see, so we want to make a good impression," she said.

The JPC workers are also the last people Troopers see when they outprocess before their final flight. Tagatac said that process includes collecting Troopers' completed outprocessing checklists and meal cards and getting them signed in at the terminal.

"It's bittersweet sometimes," she said. "Sometimes you'll see people that you worked with, and you're like, 'I'm going to miss you.'"

Being that the Troopers of the JPC are the first and last faces Troopers see when they enter and exit GTMO, Tagatac said the JPC workers get to see everybody who comes through the JTF. That is what she loves most about the duties of the JPC, along with working in a joint environment.

After checking in new Troopers, she said she will often run into them at the galley or the NEX and, though she won't recognize them in civilian clothes at first, they will say hi and remind her that they recently arrived at GTMO.

"You pretty much do meet everyone. You see everyone's face," she said. "I love it. Meeting new people, interacting with them, seeing them exciting to go home or when their families are visiting. ... Definitely seeing them smile and their morale go up. It's a good thing."

# TO BE OR NOT TO BE

Column By Spc. Jessica Randon

As many may know or not know, March is Women's History Month. A month that is dedicated to acknowledging the success and significance of all women and the roles we play in society. So, let's talk about feminism. I know what you're thinking. You're thinking, "Great, she's getting ready to rant and rave about inequality and women's rights."

Well, be happy, because I'm actually going to do the opposite.

Feminism is defined as the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men. For me growing up, when I heard the word feminist, I thought of a radical woman bent on arguing the issues and mistreatments of women in society. I pictured an angry woman yelling into a megaphone on the steps of the nation's capitol arguing for equal pay and treatment in the work place.

Now, no longer just a girl but a woman myself, my views on feminism have changed entirely. I can say that I too am a feminist but definitely not the type that I pictured growing up. So, what makes me different?

In my freshman year of college, I took a course called "Women of Different Cultures." As you could imagine, this class was comprised of women to include the instructor. We discussed issues from salary earnings to household responsibilities, all the way to female circumcision. We watched video after video about women from around the world who suffered from discrimination or abuse all because of their gender.

Many of the things we discussed I found very interesting, but the way the instructor delivered her arguments did nothing more than turn me off. This class made feminism come across as a form of victimizing women, which I do understand to an extent. But I also

believe in independence and self-actualization.

So, I would say that the difference between me and many of the women who took this class was that I was not bent on blaming others, or men more specifically, for the suppression of the female gender. I felt as if no one else in this class was willing to take responsibility for their own actions or outcomes.

So, what makes me a feminist? I believe in the strength of all women and our ability to open eyes and mend hearts, our ability to care and to kick butt. The bottom line is we do have the capability to

do all things that men can do and then some. Now, will we do as well? Maybe not. Can we do just as well? Of course, if our minds and efforts are in the right place and we are doing it for the right reasons.

A big topic right now is women in infantry. To be or not to be? Well, I spoke with a noncommissioned officer who I recently interviewed for an article. The question was, "How do you feel about women in the infantry?" Her response, I thought, was amazing.

She said she felt that if women were going to be allowed into the infantry that all of the standards required for combat should be on a level playing field with what is required of the male Soldiers. And her reasoning for this was that by meeting the standards, the women who made it, were doing it for the right reasons, and they would be more likely to actually have a passion for the infantry.

I too, agree with her thoughts. I am not going to be a victim or say that my lack of success is due to society's broken thoughts. Instead, I look at it as a challenge. You

say I can't, and I will prove that I can. You say I'm not strong enough, and I will work my butt off until I am stronger than you. I will not blame others, and instead I will accept responsibility and I will accept the challenge.

I am a firm believer in reason and opportunity. Meaning, that your success, or lack thereof, belongs to no one other than you. Do not be a victim of another's ideas. Instead, be a verdict of your own. So again, from me to you, be you, be true, be beautiful.





# Trooper to Trooper

## Scholar, athlete, warrior

SGT. 1ST CLASS ERIC BURGHARDT  
428TH MILITARY POLICE CO.

During my last deployment, I was having a conversation with my first sergeant. He was in a Ranger battalion for eight years, and he was explaining an acronym they use to describe what a Ranger should be. That acronym was RAW – Ranger, Athlete, Warrior. I decided that that acronym could be modified to describe what a modern day service member should be and came up with SAW – Scholar, Athlete, Warrior. I use SAW to describe my expectations of my Soldiers and how they need to view and conduct themselves during their mission.

Scholar: We are fighting an asymmetrical war with our enemy. Our Troopers can no longer afford to rely solely on tactical training and equipment to win battles. In order to be an effective fighting force, our Troopers need to be able to think, adapt and overcome in any situation they find themselves. In order to do this, Troopers need to continuously educate themselves. I am not referring to only formal military education but also extracurricular education, such as asymmetrical warfare, counter insurgency (COIN), and civil military operations. Our Troopers need to be able to think as well as they can shoot, move and communicate. We can become better, more well-rounded Troopers by seeking out formal education, cultural awareness training and language schools. This provides our Troopers with additional tools and enhanced skill sets to combat our enemies at the scholastic level.

Athlete: As U.S. service members, I consider us as professional athletes. That is to say that we get paid to be in good physical condition and we are evaluated on our physical fitness and the fitness level of those we lead. Organizations such as the NFL, MLB, NBA and NHL hold their players to very



high standards. If players do not meet these standards, then they could lose their jobs. I encourage my Soldiers to think of their physical training as part of their job, not something they need to get done or simply check the block on. The physical fitness test (PFT)

*When you combine all three aspects of the SAW, you get what I consider the complete Soldier: the scholar who will be able to adapt and outthink the enemy, the athlete who will have the endurance to finish the fight, and the warrior that will bring the skill sets necessary to complete the mission.*

should not be the sole reason to conduct physical training. The test should be viewed as nothing more than a formal assessment on how he or she is doing as an individual and as a leader. Too often, I feel our Troopers view the PFT as the end game. Therefore, they get the test out of the way and relax again until the next one. Continual progress and continuing to raise the bar is something I instill in my Soldiers and something that should be at the forefront of their goals.

Warrior: My other military occupational specialty (MOS) is civil affairs specialist. This MOS has provided me opportunities to work and train with units inside the special operations community. While on a reflexive fire range with a buddy of mine from the 3rd Special Forces Group, I asked him what he felt made a special forces Soldier elite when compared to a traditional Soldier. He told me that there was nothing “special” about him or his team. Sure, they get more schools and advanced training opportunities than typical Soldiers, but that comes with the level they are expected to perform at. He told me the “special” in Special Forces meant “mastering the basics” of being an operator and everything else was just “fluff.” My training philosophy has always been to master your craft. I instill this message in my Soldiers and hold them accountable for being proficient Warriors. In order to be a proficient Warrior, Troopers must master the basic skills that are expected of the warfighter, the basics of his or her individual job, and the basics of being a professional.

When you combine all three aspects of the SAW, you get what I consider to be the complete Soldier: the scholar who will be able to adapt to and outthink the enemy, the athlete who will have the endurance to finish the fight and the warrior who will bring the skill sets necessary to complete the mission.

	1 FRI	2 SAT	3 SUN	4 MON	5 TUE	6 WED	7 THU
Downtown Lyceum	Jack the Giant Slayer (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Hansel & Gretel (NEW) (R) 9 p.m.	The Impossible (NEW) (PG-13) 7 p.m. Parker (NEW) (R) 9 p.m.	Broken City (R) 7 p.m.	The Last Stand (R) 7 p.m.	Broken City (NEW) (R) 7 p.m.	Les Miserables (Last showing) (PG-13) 7 p.m.	Mama (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Camp Bulkeley	Parker (NEW) (R) 8 p.m. The Impossible (NEW) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Hansel & Gretel (NEW) (R) 8 p.m. Jack the Giant Slayer (NEW) (PG-13) 10 p.m.	Zero Dark Thirty (R) 8 p.m.	Broken City (R) 8 p.m.	Les Miserables (Last showing) (PG-13) 8p.m.	Mama (PG-13) 8 p.m.	The Last Stand (R) 8 p.m.

Call the movie hotline at 4880 or visit the MWR Facebook page for more information.

## GTMO RELIGIOUS SERVICES

For more information, contact the NAVSTA Chaplain's Office at 2323  
or the JTF Chaplain's Office at 2309

### NAVSTA MAIN CHAPEL

Daily Catholic Mass

Tues.-Fri. 5:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass

Saturday 5 p.m.

Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

Spanish-language Mass

Sunday 4:35 p.m.

General Protestant

Sunday 11 a.m.

Gospel Service

Sunday 1 p.m.

Christian Fellowship

Sunday 6 p.m.

CHAPEL ANNEXES

Protestant Communion

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Room B

Pentecostal Gospel

Sunday 8 a.m. & 5 p.m. Room D

LDS Service

Sunday 10 a.m. Room A

Islamic Service

Friday 1 p.m. Room 2

JTF TROOPER CHAPEL

Protestant Worship

Sunday 9 a.m.

Bible Study

Wednesday 6 p.m.

## GTMO BUS SCHEDULE

All buses run on the hour,  
7 days/week, from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Bus	#1	#2	#3
96 Man Camp	:31	:51	:11
NEX	:33	:53	:13
Gold Hill Galley	:37	:57	:17
Windjammer/Gym	:36	:56	:16
West Iguana	:39	:59	:19
TK 1	:40	:00	:20
TK 2	:43	:03	:23
TK 3	:45	:05	:25
TK 4	:47	:07	:27
KB 373	:50	:10	:30
Camp Delta 1	:52	:12	:32
IOF	:54	:14	:34
Windjammer/Gym	:21	:41	:01
Gold Hill Galley	:24	:44	:04
NEX	:26	:46	:16

## GTMO Beach Bus Schedule

Saturdays and Sundays only

Location	Run #1	Run #2	Run #3	Run #4
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0900	1200	1500	1800
SBOQ/Marina	0905	1205	1505	1805
NEX	0908	1208	1508	1808
Phillips Park	0914	1214	1514	1814
Cable Beach	0917	1217	1517	1817
NEX	0925	1225	1525	1825
Windward Loop/ East Caravella	0930	1230	1530	1830
SBOQ/Marina	0935	1235	1535	1835
Return to Office	0940	1240	1540	1840

### PROTECT YOUR INFO!

## ALERT

Would you recognize critical information?

Some things are obviously sensitive, such as our driver's license number, social security number, bank account information and credit card numbers. We protect these so we don't fall victim to fraud or identity thieves. But, what work information is critical? Remember COPP – Capabilities, Operations, Personnel, Personal data. We protect our facilities and operational plans, schedules and rosters, procedures, people and classified information. If you're not sure if something is sensitive, treat it like it is until you find out for sure. Don't post things online or talk about work in non-work places. Once information has been released, you can't ever get it back. It's important to recognize critical information before it's too late. THINK OPSEC FIRST!

# SAFE RIDE – 84781



**2013 Men's &  
Women's**

# **SOCCER LEAGUE**



## **Season Starts**

### **Mar. 12**

**Cooper Field**

**Register by Mar. 6  
(1900)**

**Coaches Meeting is Mar. 7,  
1830 at Denich Gym**

**FREE REGISTRATION  
at Denich Gym.**

**Trophies for  
1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Teams  
Open to Ages 16 & up  
Player's Pool Available**

**FMI, call 2113**

